

STORING OF RICE IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND TRANSFER THEREFROM

16. Mr. C. K. S. Moni (*Nominated*): Will Government be pleased to state whether rice was stored in some school buildings and transferred to other buildings when the school re-opened?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): Yes.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Chittur-Tattamangalam*): How is it that the Government were not in a position to anticipate that the schools will reopen in due time in Edavam?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): The answer does not presume that.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Chittur-Tattamangalam*): May I know in what all places rice was stored in school buildings?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): In four places, Cranganur, Maradu and two other places.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Chittur-Tattamangalam*): In which month was the rice stored in school buildings?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): In the month of April, i.e., Medam.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Chittur-Tattamangalam*): Rice was kept there for one month and had to be shifted within one month from the date of storing?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): May be little over a month, or about a month.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Chittur-Tattamangalam*): Is it the point of the Government that there is no other suitable building to store this rice?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): Rice had to be removed from Cochin and stored at a moment's notice. There was not time to search for other places. Therefore the best available building that was found in those places was resorted to for storing and as soon as the school was about to be reopened, we found out other buildings and the rice was removed.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Chittur-Tattamangalam*): May I know roughly the expenditure incurred by the Government by this shifting of rice from one building to another—all the places put together.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): The matter is under controversy between the contractor and the Government. Therefore it is not possible to give a definite answer.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Chittur-Tattamangalam*): I only want a rough figure.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): I want notice.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Chittur-Tattamangalam*): Sir, in future, will the Government take particular care to see that such unnecessary expenditure is avoided?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): That again presumes that it is unnecessary expenditure. At times of emergency, certain things have to be done and that cannot be said to be unnecessary.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Chittur-Tattamangalam*): We appreciate the difficulties of the Government in these hard times. Is it the contention of the Government that there is no other suitable building in Cranganur for stocking rice?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): At that moment, we could not pitch upon a building to which it could be shifted.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim (*Cranganur*): Will the Hon'ble Member for Revenue kindly give the House some idea of the location of the present rice depot in Cranganur?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): I have not myself seen it. It was done while I was on leave. I had no necessity to go and see it either.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim (*Cranganur*): Will the Hon'ble Member for Revenue take it from me that at present it is situated at the eastern-most extremity of the whole taluk and the location of the building is such that it cannot properly cater to the needs of the public. Will the Hon'ble Member for Revenue kindly look into the question whether it can be removed to a central position, for example the Azhikode market?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): The point is this. There is no necessity to remove that from that place to another place. I have gone into the question and find no necessity to remove it to some other place. It is not a retail depot. We deal out to merchants at the rate of five to ten bags and we must select a place which would involve the least conveyance charges. That is, it must be very near the backwater. That is the one criterion and therefore we do not agree that it must be taken to some other place. Some others will say that it will be inconvenient to them if it is shifted to some other place.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim (*Cranganur*): We are very much impressed by the speech of the Hon'ble Member; but my difficulty remains. My question was not regarding the way of the business that is being done in the depots. My difficulty is that it is situated at the easternmost

extremity of Cranganur and in its vicinity there are a large number of rice shops, for example, in Kaval, Sringapuram, Kottappuram. There are a large number of retail and perhaps whole-sale shops and rice-mills which can cater to the needs of the people there. If it is removed to some central position, that would cater to the needs of the public in a better way. The hon'ble member has not himself seen the shop.

Mr. President: The object is to supply to the shops in the vicinity.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim (Cranganur): I may respectfully bring to the notice of the Hon'ble President that those shops are already getting bags and bags from Cochin and Ernakulam and it is to the people who are in the heart of the taluk that this depot is necessary.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (Diwan Peishkar): You are not put to the least difficulty. You are in a better position now. We have to get rice through the backwaters.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim (Cranganur): May I bring to the notice of the Government that the backwater is not confined to the north and south direction only and there is a bigger backwater which is lying east to west, what is called the Kanjirapuzha. The other is only the Konoli canal. The Hon'ble Member said that the depot is near the backwater. It is a misstatement.

Mr. Ismail Hajee Issa Sait (Mattancheri): May I know whether any complaints have been received from the Cranganur Magistrate for not getting rice for the public?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (Diwan Peishkar): Not received.

Mr. Ismail Hajee Essa Sait (Mattancheri): How many depots were opened in Cranganur?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (Diwan Peishkar): Only one.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (Adur): Has the Government any method of finding out whether there is rice?

Mr. President: It does not arise out of this question.

Mr. Ismail Hajee Essa Sait (Mattancheri): May I know whether the Government has issued any order to sell out at certain hours a day?

Mr. President: That also does not arise from this question.

STARTING OF GOVERNMENT RICE DEPOTS—EFFECT ON THE MARKETS

17. Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (Cranganur): Will Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that the market rate per bag of rice rose as soon as Government started a depot there; and if the answer is in the affirmative, will Government kindly state the reasons for this?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (Diwan Peishkar): No. On the other hand the starting of Government depots had a stabilising effect on the market.

ADJOURNMENT OF SALES OF IMMOVEABLE PROPERTIES— CIRCULAR REGARDING

18. Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether Government or High Court has given any instructions to the lower courts to adjourn sale of immoveable properties if the judgment-debtor deposits in advance in cash the interest at 6 per cent of the total decree debt for the period for which the sale is adjourned in addition to the day cost;

(b) if not, will Government be pleased to advise the High Court that instructions as suggested in the sub-division (a) be issued to the lower courts?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon (Advocate-General):

(a) The High Court has not given any such instructions.

(b) No such instructions are necessary in view of the existing powers the courts possess under the law.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): So a court can adjourn sales provided 6 per cent interest is paid in advance for the period of sale?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon (Advocate-General): No emphasis can be laid on the 6 per cent. If a reasonable amount is paid up, the courts have got discretion to adjourn sales. For the information of the hon'ble member I shall read the instructions contained in a circular issued by the High Court:

"It has come to the notice of the judges that there is apprehension on the part of the litigant public that the instructions contained in Civil Circular No. 2 of 1109 are not being followed by some of the subordinate courts in the spirit in which that circular was conceived. If this is true, it is extremely regrettable. Three matters of grievance were brought to the prominent notice of the Government by the non-official members during the last Budget Session of the Legislative Council. They are (1) sales of immoveable properties are not sometimes adjourned even if an appreciable portion of the decree-debt